

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01546 251807Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 DODE-00

ERDA-07 PM-04 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 SP-02 SS-15 /117 W

-----260500 047054 /12

R 251726Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3589

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 1546

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CI

SUBJECT: LO AGUIRRE NUCLEAR REACTOR GOES CRITICAL

1. SANTIAGO NEWSPAPER "CRONISTA" REPORTED THAT LO AGUIRRE NUCLEAR REACTOR WENT CRITICAL FEBRUARY 4, 1977. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBED LO AGUIRRE AS THE MOST POTENT NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR IN LATIN AMERICA. THE REACTOR WAS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED AS HAVING A POTENCY OF 20 MW. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER, THEREFORE, CALLED CCEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LT. COL MARMADUQUE ABARZUA TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE POWER CAPABILITY OF THE REACTOR AND WAS TOLD THAT THE CAPABILITY IS PRESENTLY 10 MW BUT THIS WILL BE EXPANDED TO 20 MW WITHIN THE COMING YEAR "BY ADDING ANOTHER LOOP."

2. THE CRONISTA ARTICLE STATED THAT LO AGUIRRE AND LA REINA REACTORS COMBINED ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ALL OF THE RADIO ISOTOPES THAT CHILE NEEDS IN THE FIELDS OF MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND MINING. MOREOVER, LO AGUIRRE CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF MATERIALS FOR LATER USE IN THE APPLICATION OF PLASTICS TO WOOD, STEEL AND MINERALS.

3. CCEN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CONTENDING FOR SOME TIME THAT LO AGUIRRE HAS NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE ARMY ASIDE FROM BEING LOCATED ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION. THE CRONISTA ARTICLE DESCRIBED
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LO AGUIRRE AS BEING AN ARMY REACTOR SOON TO BE TURNED OVER TO CCEN, A CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION.
POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR RESEARCH, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA01546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770067-0217
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977028/aaaaahfu.tel
Line Count: 58
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 3dbecdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3426694
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LO AGUIRRE NUCLEAR REACTOR GOES CRITICAL
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3dbecdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009